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RURAL DISTRICT OF DORCHESTER

A N N U A L R E P O R T

ON THE HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION OF THE

R U R A L D I S T R I C T O F D O R C H E S T E R

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955.

I. B. LAWRENCE, B.Sc., M.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

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Mr. E. J. B. VINE

STAFF - PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health (Combined Appointment)

I. B. LAWRENCE, B.Sc., M.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspectors:

Senior - N. RAWLINS, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional - F. C. POWELL, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (Resigned January 1955)

J. M. STAMP, M.S.I.A. (Appointed 1.3.55)

J. B. SALT, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.H. (Appointed 12.9.55)

Temporary Additional - S. M. PAYNE (Resigned 14.5.55)

C. LEAR (Appointed 18.8.55. Resigned 21.11.55)

Clerical Staff:

Miss K. R. BROOKS

C. E. KINGSBURY (Resigned 12.11.55)

Miss J. R. BOUCHER

Miss M. A. SMITH

Rodent Operators:

E. BUDDEN

A. J. WATSON

County Clinic,
Glyde Path Road,
Dorchester.

To The Chairman and Members of

The Dorchester Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my sixth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Rural District of Dorchester for the year 1955. It is written on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health.

The health of the district was generally satisfactory, although a large variety of infectious diseases were notified.

There was a large increase in the number of Measles, compared with the previous year, but the cases of Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever were less. Only two cases of Poliomyelitis were confirmed, both had paralysis. Two cases of Paratyphoid were notified, both were associated with other cases in the neighbouring districts.

One case of Undulant Fever (Abortus Fever) was brought to my notice and on investigation, he had been away on holiday during the period when he could have acquired the disease, so there was no evidence suggesting infection in our area.

It is pleasing to note that the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified, has fallen by a third.

A display of posters on prevention of Influenza, Burns and Scalds were shown to the Council with leaflets giving the details.

The Housing Survey was continued during the year, but owing to staff difficulties it has not been completed, but a return was made to the Council to enable them to submit the necessary figures to the Ministry, as directed under the new Housing and Rents Act, 1954. Until the Survey is completed the overall picture which is so necessary, cannot be seen, but it is obvious that an extensive housing programme is required.

A small Representation for a Clearance Area in the village of Charminster was submitted to the Council. The Council resolved to declare a Clearance Area and the resolutions were referred to the Ministry. An Inquiry was held

and later a Clearance Order was confirmed. I think it is worth mentioning that the whole matter was completed within the year, as the Ministry and Local Authorities are often blamed for unnecessary delays.

Following a visit to the Ministry of Health on proposed sewage works in two villages, a Medical Officer of the Ministry was kindly sent to the district and visited the villages concerned. The Ministry has now given conditional sanction to invite tenders to commence work in 1956.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their help and understanding during the year. Also the Public Health Staff who have had many difficulties, for their support throughout the year and finally the rest of the staff of the Council for their kind co-operation.

Your obedient Servant,

I. B. Lawrence.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

(Figures for 1954 shown in brackets)

Area	128,606 acres	
Resident Population	17,290	(17,260)
No. of houses inhabited at the end of 1955 ...	5,157	(5,077)
Rateable Value (1st April, 1956)	£87,355	(£86,122)
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£352	(£349)

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population - Estimate for Births and Deaths			17,290	
Comparability Factor	Births		1.20	
	Deaths		0.91	
Births:	Males	Females	Total	
Legitimate	131	112	243	
Illegitimate	2	7	9	
Totals	133	119	252	(283)
Still Births:				
Legitimate	3	4	7	
Illegitimate	1	-	1	
Totals	4	4	8	(7)
Deaths - All Causes	136	144	280	(243)
Deaths of Infants under 1 year (Infant Mortality)				
Legitimate	4	3	7	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Totals	4	3	7	(6)
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks (NeoNatal Mortality)				
Legitimate	2	3	5	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Totals	2	3	5	(3)

Birth Rate x Comparability Factor	17.40	(14.0)
Birth Rate for England and Wales	15.0	(15.2)
Death Rate x Comparability Factor	14.74	(12.84)
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.7	(11.3)
Infant Mortality Rate	27.7	(21.2)
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	24.9	(25.4)

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	Males	Females	Total	
Tuberculosis, respiratory... ...	3	-	3	(2)
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-	
Syphilitic disease	-	1	1	(1)
Diphtheria	-	-	-	
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	
Meningitis	-	-	-	
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	
Measles	-	-	-	
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	(1)
Cancer of stomach..	2	-	2	(4)
Cancer of lung, bronchus	2	-	2	(6)
Cancer of breast...	-	-	-	(3)
Cancer of uterus...	-	2	2	(-)
Other Cancers	9	8	17	(18)
Acute Anaemia	-	-	-	(1)
Diabetes	2	1	3	(2)
Vascular lesions of nervous system...	13	19	32	(23)
Coronary disease, angina	20	16	36	(29)
High Blood Pressure with heart disease	2	3	5	(3)
Other Heart Disease	38	57	95	(75)
Other circulatory disease... ...	5	2	7	(11)
Influenza	-	-	-	(-)
Pneumonia	8	6	14	(10)
Bronchitis	3	1	4	(5)
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2	(5)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	-	1	(2)
Gasteritis, enteritis and diarrhoea..	-	-	-	(1)
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	-	2	(2)
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-	(2)
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion...	-	-	-	(-)
Congenital malformations	2	1	3	(1)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	17	22	39	(20)
Motor Vehicle accidents	2	-	2	(2)
All other accidents	4	2	6	(10)
Suicide	-	2	2	(4)
All Causes	136	144	280	(243)

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table summarises the notifications of Infectious Diseases made during the year :-

Disease	Total Cases Notified Age Periods 0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65	A.U.	TOTAL	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	1	-
Whooping Cough	4	11	18	25	5	-	1	-	1	2	67	-	-
Measles	4	33	43	136	24	2	3	-	1	1	247	6	-
Pneumonia	-	1	-	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	6	1	14
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	4	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	4	3	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	2	2	-	7	5	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid B	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	2	-

It is to be noted that six cases of Measles were admitted to hospital but no deaths occurred.

Pneumonia caused the greatest mortality in Infectious Diseases. Fourteen deaths occurred.

The number of cases of Food Poisoning showed an increase from two cases in the previous year to seven this year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 1955 the following cases and deaths from Tuberculosis were notified :- (figures for 1954 shown in brackets)

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS..	2(6)	1(1)	-(1)	1(4)	1(1)	-(-)	-(-)	-(1)

Preventive vaccination against Tuberculosis (B.C.G.) is still being carried out by the County Medical Staff.

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

To call the Ambulance for routine work, ring Dorchester 420, in an emergency ask the exchange for Ambulance. Always state urgency, nature of case, full address and which Ambulance is required, e.g. sitting or stretcher case.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT.

No cases requiring investigation were notified during the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING & REFUSE.

The service has been carried on very satisfactorily and was extended during the year on a limited scale.

The refuse disposal site is at Warmwell and is well maintained.

HOUSING.

Council Houses	In process of erection.	Completed 1955	Completed since War.
Temporary -	-	-	-
Permanent -			
Traditional Type	36	44	302
Non-Traditional Type	-	-	60
Old Persons Bungalows	4	6	26
Hutted Camps (14 Demolished)	-	-	50
No. of older Council Houses			199
Total No. of Council Houses			587

Improvement Grants.

No. of dwellings in respect of which approval was given during 1955.	75
No. of dwellings in respect of which approval was given prior to 1955.	96
TOTAL	171

It is again satisfactory to note that 50 houses including six old persons bungalows, were completed during the year, bringing the number of houses owned by the Council to 587.

The gradual reduction of huts is also a pleasing feature, as they have more than served their temporary purpose.

The issue of seventy-five Improvement Grants has again helped housing conditions in saving houses and making them fit.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Mr. Forbes, our Water Engineer, has kindly given me the following information.

The only mains extension during the year was to the village of Osmington Mills, where approximately three quarters of a mile of three inch pipe was laid.

Numerous domestic and farm supply connections were made in all villages, through which our mains comprehension scheme is laid, totalling 119 domestic and 27 farms or dairies.

A scheme for the improvement of the sanitary accommodation at Forston's Pumping Station has been approved by the Council and it is to be hoped that this work will soon be commenced.

Sampling of water supplies has continued throughout the year and all mains supplies have been satisfactory.

SEWERAGE.

The scheme for the amalgamation of the Charminster Village and Herrison Hospital with the contemplated new scheme for improvements at the Dorchester Borough Works, unfortunately had to be abandoned because of cost and a cheaper scheme including the addition of the villages of Bradford Peverell and Muckleford has been formulated.

It is hoped that this will not delay the sewerage of the village of Charminster and Herrison Hospital.

The Warmwell Airfield Sewage Works was acquired by the Council during the year. It is contemplated that fifty new Council Houses are to be built in the area in the immediate future.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Dr. T. V. Cooper of the County Laboratory and Dr. G. H. Tee of the Public Health Laboratory have again been most helpful during the year and I appreciate their ready co-operation.

The following is a table of specimens submitted to the Laboratories :-

Throat Swabs	35	Milk	126
Faeces	273	Ice Cream	27
Blood	28	Water	375
Ringworm	3	Miscellaneous	21
Sputum	89		

Public Health Department,
24, High West Street,
Dorchester.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1955

HOUSING

Inspection and visits carried out :-

No. of houses inspected	-	(a) Under Housing Act	652
		(b) Under Public Health Act	20
No. of return visits	-	(a) Under Housing Acts	386
		(b) Under Public Health Act	102
No. of general housing visits			130
No. of visits in connection with cases of overcrowding			5

Subsequent action taken and general progress :-

Summary of notices served	- Informal	(a) Under Housing Acts	-
		(b) Under Public Health Act	47
	- Statutory	(a) Under Housing Act (Demolition Orders & Closing Orders)	13 2
		(b) Under Public Health Act	5
Houses rendered fit after service of notices including those in respect of which notices were served in previous years	- Informal	(a) Under Housing Act	1
		(b) Under Public Health Act	10
	- Statutory	(a) Under Housing Act	-
		(b) Under Public Health Act	5
No. of houses demolished during the year			4
No. of premises in which an Undertaking not to use for human habitation was accepted by the Council			1

WATER SUPPLY

In investigations of individual supplies, seven notices have been served requiring connection to the main supply or improvement to existing facilities, and eight premises have been connected to the Council's mains.

Sampling

Total number of samples taken -	(a) From 7 Statutory Undertakings	113
	(b) From 51 Private Supplies	118
Results - Bacteriological	(a) Satisfactory (from 46 supplies)	156
	(b) Suspicious (from 4 supplies)	6
	(c) Unsatisfactory (from 23 supplies)	67
- Chemical Analysis	(a) Satisfactory (from 2 supplies)	2

FOOD & DRUGS

(a) Meat Inspection :-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	139	2	6	115	289
Number inspected	139	2	6	115	289
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	38	1	-	15	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	27.33	50.0	-	13.04	.34

Meat Inspection (Contd.)

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	-	-	-	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5.03	-	-	-	1.73
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Total weight of meat condemned	5 cwts. 1 qr. 0 lbs.				

(b) Sampling:-

(i) Milk

Samples taken for Bacteriological examination	6
Passed Methylene Blue Test	6
Failed Methylene Blue Test	-
Samples taken for Biological examination	4

(ii) Ice Cream

Samples taken	22
Placed in Provisional Grade 1	13
Placed in Provisional Grade 2	9

(c) Food Premises:-

There are a total number of 172 in the area, comprising :-

Bakehouses	12
Butchers	7
Grocers, Post Offices etc., also selling food	52
Fried Fish Premises	1
Hotels, Public Houses and Guest Houses	62
School Canteens, including food service	21

(c) Food Premises Contd.

Dairies	3
Food Factories	1
Cafes	7
Canteens and Snack Bars	6

Of these premises, 52 are registered under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, and 3 under the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949.

During the year 221 visits of inspection were made to food premises, and arising from these inspections 17 informal notices were served. During the same period 4 informal notices were complied with.

(d) Food Condemnation:-

The surrender has been accepted during the year of a quantity of foodstuffs, consisting of tinned goods amounting to 2 qrs. 12 lbs. 5 ozs., and a quantity of other foods amounting to 1 cwt. 2 qrs. 7 lbs.

RODENT CONTROL

The work carried out by the Council's two Rodent Operators is shown in the following summary:-

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural.	All Others	Total
Total number of properties in the area	21	4,980	470	477	5,948
No. of properties inspected as a result of					
(a) Notification	-	93	11	5	109
(b) Survey	4	3,748	427	223	4,402
(c) Otherwise	-	-	2	2	4
Total inspections carried out, including re-inspections	7	3,848	455	243	4,553
No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by (a) Rats - Major	-	2	5	-	7
Minor	3	424	32	22	481
(b) Mice - Major	-	1	-	-	1
- Minor	-	77	1	1	79
No. of infested properties treated by Local Authority.	3	499	15	11	527
No. of notices served under Section 4.					
(a) Treatment	-	-	9	9	18
(b) Structural work	-	1	-	-	1

No. of 'block' control schemes carried out = 1.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1947 & 1948

(a) Factories:-

	No. on Register	Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	50	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is to be enforced by Local Authorities	98	14	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	-	-	-
TOTAL	151	15	-	-

Cases in which defects were found ;-

	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	Prosecutions.
Want of cleanliness (S.I.)					
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective		1		1	
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the act (not including offences relating to outwork)					
TOTAL		1		1	

(b) Outworkers:-

No of Outworkers employed by :-

Net Manufacturers	-	101
Clothes Manufacturers	-	59
TOTAL		160

Summary of inspections carried out during the year by :-

(i) Public Health Officers :-

Housing	1295
Food & Drugs	399
Infectious Diseases	7
General Sanitation	1598
	3299
(ii) Rodent Operators	4553
TOTAL	7852